

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

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December 04, 2012

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES FOR A CALWORKS
SYMPOSIUM "WORKING TOWARD MY FUTURE"
FOR CALWORKS PARTICIPANTS
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request approval to expend funds to host and conduct the first client-centered symposium: "Working Toward My Future," for California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids participants in Los Angeles County, to be held on January 22, 2013, at the California Endowment.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Authorize the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to expend funds to host and conduct a Symposium, "Working Toward My Future," for California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) participants, to be held on January 22, 2013, at an estimated cost of \$29,000.
2. Authorize the Director of Mental Health (Director), or his designee, to execute an agreement with The California Endowment for space and catering services at an estimated cost of \$4,000.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Board approval of the recommended actions will allow DMH to host and conduct the first symposium for CalWORKs participants in Los Angeles County. This is an all day client-centered symposium,

which is proposed to be held on January 22, 2013, at The California Endowment, located in downtown Los Angeles.

The symposium will be specifically designed to address and provide tactics on how to remove participants' mental health barriers to employment, while increasing hope, self-worth, resiliency and a commitment to obtaining employment. In an effort to further enhance motivation and provide support to CalWORKs participants receiving mental health supportive services in Los Angeles County, the symposium will concentrate on essential employment focused workshops and presentations to address and develop strategies to alleviate mental health barriers for successful treatment outcomes. This is aligned with the DMH's core goal to promote hope, wellness, and recovery.

DMH's CalWORKs programs have consistently provided mental health supportive services to CalWORKs participants throughout Los Angeles County. Approval of the symposium will allow stakeholders (mental health clinicians, case managers, employment specialists, Greater Avenues for Independence workers and CalWORKs participants) to work collaboratively in providing an integrated approach to employment for CalWORKs participants. Each CalWORKs mental health provider will be able to register one member of the CalWORKs treatment staff to attend the symposium in order to provide support to their participants and also acquire important information that will be beneficial to all CalWORKs participants at their agency.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions support the County's Strategic Plan Goal 1, "Operational Effectiveness" and Goal 3, "Integrated Services Delivery."

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The Fiscal Year 2012-13 DMH Adopted Budget includes sufficient appropriation to fund the estimated \$29,000 total cost of the symposium which excludes food for County employees. The cost of the conference will be fully funded by CalWORKs Program training allocation through an intrafund transfer from the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS). One hundred fifty CalWORKs participants are expected to attend, along with twelve presenters which totals to 162 non-County attendees. Eighty-eight other attendees will be comprised of the DPSS Greater Avenues to Independence Workers, CalWORKs Administration program staff, CalWORKs directly operated and contract staff which includes clinicians, case managers and/or employment specialists.

The estimated cost of this symposium includes \$2,490 for pens, highlighters, stress reliever balls, and weekly planners for participants; \$2,060 for ID holders, labels, folders, binders and the layout and printing for brochures; \$2,000 for graphics and plaques; \$4,000 for food and beverage services; \$7,000 for speakers and specialized trainers; \$2,000 for T-shirts; \$2,000 for portfolios; \$2,500 for books; \$2,800 for bags; and \$2,150 for incentives.

There is no net County cost impact associated with these actions.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The "Working Toward My Future" Symposium is client-centered and will target CalWORKs participants throughout Los Angeles County who are receiving mental health supportive services

from the DMH's directly operated and CalWORKs contract providers.

The symposium is necessary to represent a systemic change in the delivery of mental health supportive services by developing a greater emphasis on employment and economic self-sufficiency for CalWORKs participants. The CalWORKs symposium is essential for Countywide participants to gain fundamental skills and competencies in supporting their return to employment and self-sufficiency. Additionally, the symposium will provide an environment that envisions solutions to many challenges faced by CalWORKs participants.

The "Working Toward My Future" Symposium is an all day event. Catering services are required as CalWORKs participants lack sufficient financial resources to pay for their meals and/or don't have transportation resources to access nearby local restaurants in the community.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

DMH solicited quotes from various venues that met selection requirements for the symposium. A planning committee composed of consumers, contract providers, and DMH administrative staff determined that the California Endowment was the preferred location based on availability, no cost for the space, size of accommodations, and convenience of both automobile access and public transportation for presenters, employees, and consumers. The Endowment prohibits the use of outside catering services and contracts with Sodexo for their catering services.

Upon Board approval, DMH will expend funds in support of the symposium and enter into an Agreement with the California Endowment. Confirmation in the form of a deposit will be made to ensure reservation of space, catering services, and other necessities for the conference are obtained.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

This symposium is designed to enhance mental health treatment services by incorporating an employment focused approach to the removal of mental health barriers to employment for CalWORKs participants being served in our clinics. CalWORKs participants will be provided with information and resources to support their transition into employment and/or vocational programs.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

12/4/2012

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mg Southard", with a stylized flourish at the end.

MARVIN J. SOUTHARD, D.S.W.

Director of Mental Health

MJS:CW:DD:RK:gt

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Chairperson, Mental Health Commission
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Department of Public Social Services